



(Photo by Master Sgt. Winston Churchill 1st ACB)

Time for a check-up

Spc. Timothy Bisping, an AH-64D Longbow Apache mechanic for 615th Aviation Support Battalion, 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, cleans the pilot's Multi Functional Display as he prepares the aircraft to be returned after a 500 hour scheduled, major maintenance phase is completed on it.

Outlaws take beans 'n bullets to Mustang's area

By Sgt. 1st Class Kap Kim
2-1 Cav. Public Affairs

FORWARD OPERATING BASE RUSTAMIYAH, Iraq - It's a drive that has become all too familiar for Sgt. Edrik Torres.

In his second deployment to Iraq, the Cavorojo, Puerto Rico native has learned to ignore the many dangers that come with pushing supplies out to his supported units, and the only thing on his mind, he admitted, is making sure the guys get what they

need to survive.

The motor transport operator who is assigned to Company F, Forward Support Company, 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, said he's proud of being a part of the section they call "Road Warriors."

"My guys, they like to go out and gain experience," he said. "They travel out almost everyday."

Their and the rest of the "Outlaws" of

Co. F's mission is to constantly transport everything the rest of their battalion's Soldiers need to live. That mission has been further complicated with new combat outposts which means new routes.

Before the mission, Torres, walked around his truck to make sure everything was in proper working order. He pulled his truck in line behind a Bradley Fighting

See **Outlaw** Page 2

Outlaws supply fellow troops

Outlaw

From Page 1

Vehicle escort.

"The guys get really excited when we come by," Torres said of the Soldiers he and his unit supply.

During 1st Bn., 8th Cav. Regt.'s recent beef-up of security into Baghdad, living away from their forward operating bases' many amenities such as running water, electricity, and hot chow to name a few, supplies have become one of the most important things to their survival.

In addition to their sustenance supplies, Co. F, also has been transporting "Jersey" and "T" concrete barriers to surround the combat outposts, but still, it's the food and water that is most appreciated by the Soldiers.

"These LOGPACs (logistics packages) keep us going," said Capt. Joseph Rosen, Co. C's commander of Fort Polk, La. "Right now, water isn't as important as it's going to be in the spring and summer. That's when we are going to feel the pain. The food is really important though."

As Rosen's unit started living in an abandoned snack-food, packaging plant within an industrial district in Rustamiyah, the only means of getting anything was through the



(Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Kap Kim 2-1 Cav. Public Affairs)

Sgt. Edrik Torres, a motor transport operator assigned to Co. F, 1st Bn., 8th Cav. Regt., 2nd BCT, 1st Cav. Div., checks his communications equipment before heading out to Co. C's combat outpost in Baghdad March 9.

regular convoys the Outlaws made to the remote outposts, and that's something Rosen said they do not take for granted.

"Whatever we've asked of Foxtrot

Company, they have bent over backward to make it happens for us," Rosen said.

"I love those guys. Captain (Dennis) Williams and his boys have never told us 'no;' these guys are all over it," he said.

"I couldn't have asked for a better platoon," Williams said of the Outlaws.

"They take their job seriously, and I'm glad they do. These guys have their job down to an art," he said.

1st Sgt. Andre Owens, who is the FSC's highest-ranking, enlisted Soldier, attributes their reputation on the two women who run the distribution platoon: the platoon leader and sergeant.

"They set the company's standard on PCI (Precombat Inspections) and convoy briefs," Owens said. "Sergeant Baker (Sgt. 1st Class Cassandra Baker of Biloxi, Miss.) has high personal standards and that's what makes her have high standards with her platoon."

Owens added that he's impressed with the leadership of all his noncommissioned officers.

"We don't ever skip a beat," he said. "Every convoy is the same - that's why our Soldiers are alive and well today."

Arabic Phrase of the Day

badla

**Defined:
suit**

Iraq 3-Day Weather Report



Today

High: 81
Low: 57



Tomorrow

High: 77
Low: 61



Sunday

High: 73
Low: 63

Commanding General: Maj. Gen. Joseph F. Fil, Jr.
Public Affairs Officer: Lt. Col. Scott Bleichwehl
Command Information Supervisor: Master Sgt. Dave Larsen
NCOIC, Print Production: Sgt. Michael Garrett
Editor: Spc. Shea Butler
Staff Writers: Sgt. Nicole Kojetin, Spc. L.B. Edgar, Spc. Jeffrey Ledesma, Pfc. Ben Gable, Pfc. William Hatton
Contributing Writers: Sgt. 1st Class Kapp Kim, Spc. Sean Hanson

Contact the *Daily Charge* at VOIP 242-4093, DSN 318-847-2855 or e-mail david.j.larsen@mnd-b.army.mil.

The *Daily Charge* is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. Army. Contents of the *Daily Charge* are not necessarily official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army or the 1st Cavalry Division. All editorial content of the *Daily Charge* is prepared, edited, provided and approved by the 1st Cavalry Division Public Affairs Office.

Hopes for economic growth in An Najaf

4-25 Inf. Public Affairs

KALSU, Iraq - An-Najaf provincial government leaders, coalition force leadership, and American business liaison personnel toured the "Ready To Wear" clothing production factory in An-Najaf province March 19.

The achievement of provincial Iraqi control has allowed investment from abroad to take interest in possible business ventures in the province.

Brig. Gen. Vincent Brooks, deputy commander, Multi-National Davison-Baghdad; Paul Brinkley, deputy undersecretary, Defense for Business Transformation; Fawzi Hariri, Minister of Industry and Minerals; Ali Al Dabbagh, spokesman for Iraqi Prime Minister, Mahdi Sajjad, vice president of International Business Development for Gulfsands Petroleum, and As'ad Abu Khalil, governor of An Najaf toured the company and were given an overview of the factory by Salah

Hamoodi, facility director general, and expressed a desire to expand into exports markets including the United States.

The company is a clothing production facility and several hundred employees on the production floor were working at near capacity.

Brinkley expressed his confidence that the factory could compete with any textile plant in the world and that he intended to bring them as much demand as they could handle.

Following the tour, the group sat down for a traditional Iraqi dinner.

After the meal, a news conference was held with Iraqi media to explain the purpose of the visit and the prospects for economic development throughout Najaf and the surrounding provinces.

This visit and hope for economic growth in the province can be directly related to the provincial Iraqi control achieved late last year.



(U.S. Photo)

U.S. economic business leaders, Multi-National Davison-Baghdad leaders, Najaf provincial officials, Iraqi government economic heads, and "Ready To Wear" clothing factory leaders share a traditional Iraqi meal after the tour of the facility March 13 in Najaf.

Baghdad in Brief

National police find weapons cache in mosque

BAGHDAD - Iraqi National Police discovered a weapons cache during a search of the Al Baneen mosque in Southeast Rashid March 21.

The operation occurred as a result from tips about anti-Iraqi activities received from civilians in the area. National Police entered the mosque and confiscated the weapons and munitions, while MND-B forces conducted the outer cordon and security.

Discovered on the mosque's premises were: one RPK machinegun, six AK-47 assault rifles, four rocket propelled grenade launchers, two RPG warheads, a spool of copper wire and other assorted bomb-making materials, cell phones, and anti-coalition propaganda.

No MND-B forces entered the mosque at any time during the operation.

Raid seizes weapons cache in southern Baghdad

BAGHDAD, Iraq - Iraqi security forces and Multi-National Division - Baghdad troops seized a large weapons cache found in Zubaida, March 21.

The joint search between the 2nd Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Inf. Div., and the Iraqi security forces resulted in the capture of three AK-47s, one rocket propelled grenade launcher with three warheads and boosters, one 9 mm handgun, two grenades, more than 10 improvised explosive device initiators, an IED and assorted small arms ammunition.

The raid also netted more than 50 blasting caps, four bundles of copper wire, two 60 mm, five 57 mm, and three 81 mm mortar rounds. Also seized were two cell phones, eight SIM cards, six remote control car batteries, two hand drills, and anti-coalition propaganda.

An explosive ordnance disposal team was called in to dispose of the munitions.

New class of Iraqi soldiers drive on

By Spc. Sean Hanson
1-1 Cav. Public Affairs

CAMP TAJI, Iraq - It was with no trepidation, no fear of repercussion for his service to his healing country, that Pvt. Jiwwad Jassem joined the Iraq Army in September 2006.

Although Jassem is from a neighborhood south of Baghdad relatively unscarred by violence, he said he was compelled to help loosen the chokehold of terror maintained by the insurgency.

Now a Soldier in his sixth month of training here as a tank driver and checkpoint guard, Jassem said the hardest part of his job - basic training - is over and he looks forward to months spent combating insurgents.

"I believe in my country," Jassem said, standing near a formation of his fellow Soldiers from the 1st Mechanized Battalion, 3rd Brigade. "I want to protect and serve my country, too."

Pvt. Mohammed Hassin, a bodyguard for the Iraqi officers overseeing the training, said he had a similar motivation for joining the Iraqi Army.

"As a Soldier, I came here - we came here for a reason: to serve our country," Hassin said.

Unlike some Iraqi Soldiers who work



(Photos by Spc. Sean Hanson 1-1 Cav. Public Affairs)

Soldiers from 1st Mechanized Battalion, 3rd Brigade, 9th Iraq Army Division (Mechanized) rest in formation outside of buildings erected for practicing room-clearing procedures on Camp Taji, Iraq.

hard to hide their service in a shroud of excuses to all but their closest friends and family to avoid persecution from insurgents, Jassem is open about his employment and returns home from leave a hero in the eyes of his hometown's residents.

"Why should I be scared (of insurgents)?" Jassem said. "My family, my relatives, my friends - whoever knows me - are proud of me because they know I'm serving them and serving their country."

Among the tall grass and scrap-metal remnants of equipment destroyed in the war on the eastern half of Camp Taji, the IA's half, Jassem readied himself for a long day of driver's training, one day of four consecutive weeks, after which he'll receive one week of leave.

When it comes to marksmanship, Jassem is not a perfect Soldier; although he said he's not a very good shot with his issued AK-47, he has determination in spades.

"Hopefully, the new security plan is going to work, and when that works, we'll be able to go home and the mission will be done," Jassem said, and he's willing to remain in the Iraqi Army until his country is secure.

Because of the IA's unique way of selecting its noncommissioned officers, Jassem's willingness to stay the course may be the best determinant of a future at a higher grade.

As Company C, 52nd Infantry Regiment 1st Sgt. David Corbin, of Pulaski, Wis., explained, the IA - converse to the U.S. Army - selects its noncommissioned officers without a mandatory minimum time in service,

promotion board or point structure.

"They look at leadership differently than we do. They look at charisma, ... bravery, who's been following them," Corbin said, and as they proceed through their training exercises, which draw on both driving and infantry tactics during this particular phase, those who take initiative and exhibit the traits of natural leaders are given the three chevrons to wear.

Pfc. Mark Hernandez, of Fresno, Calif., is one of Corbin's Soldiers, working now as an instructor with the Iraq Soldiers.

"We don't have much to work with, so we improvise," Hernandez said. With a lack of interpreters to instruct the Iraq Soldiers individually, Hernandez said his platoon began implementing a "train the trainer" structure whereby the Company C Soldiers instruct IA noncommissioned officers, who, in turn, relay the instruction to their Soldiers.

Company C Platoon Leader 1st Lt. Cecil Wolberton, of Louisville, Ky., said this affords the IA unit the sovereignty and cohesion that allows them to function independently, and it's working: "Every day, they improve," he said.

Hassin and Jassem echoed Wolberton's assessment of their growth.

"The Iraqi Army is getting better because we're getting more training that can help us and help other Soldiers like us," Hassin said.

With T-72 tanks rumbling down the road in front of the Soldiers, Jassem added, "I'm just proud of being in the Army. We just want to get rid of the terrorists, get home safe and free our country."



Soldiers from 1st Bn., 3rd Bde., 9th IA Div. practice driving a T-72 tank during a training exercise March 20 on Camp Taji, Iraq.

Bulldozer operator by day, security by night

By Pfc. William Hatton
7th MPAD

BAGHDAD - Every day it's the same thing, hop into a well used bulldozer and clear and move mounds of dirt. Everything about this scenario sounds common of a typical construction yard across America, but there is one small thing that makes this bulldozer and the mound of dirt

unique.

The bulldozer happens to be armored for explosive attacks and gun fire and today the mound of dirt happens to be ground needing to be cleared for a new combat outpost being opened in the western Baghdad neighborhood of Ghazaliya.

For Sgt. Fred Suddeth an engineer with the 887th Engineer Support Company, 20th Engineer Battalion, 36th

Engineer Brigade, operating a bulldozer in Iraq is more than just a job, it's something that provides happiness in an unhappy place.

Joining the Army started off as an opportunity to gain money for college, said Suddeth, a native of Eagle, Idaho. Over time and learning the job, it became something quite fun, he added.

"It's really something else being able to break down and rebuild something," Suddeth said.

Starting off, training for the job was a lot different than how things turned out to be in Iraq, Suddeth said. Now into his second deployment, every day is different as missions change, he added.

"The job tends to be very versatile, every day seems to be different," Suddeth said.

During his first deployment, Suddeth's job was mostly clearing dangerous routes of improvised explosive devices, he said. Now Suddeth and his unit seem to do more building and setting up combat outposts.

Although operating a bulldozer is what he's been tasked for during his current mission, Suddeth finds himself doing numerous jobs as his unit builds different combat outposts, he said.

Another difference about this tour compared to his last is being in a young unit with Soldiers who haven't worked with new equipment, Suddeth said.

"It's sometimes a challenge, but it is rewarding being able to teach the guys in the unit how to do something they didn't know how to," Suddeth said.

As Suddeth clears the ground during a mission, his fellow Soldiers are able place concrete barriers which will help in protecting from incoming mortars, Suddeth said.

With the combat outpost complete, work will continue elsewhere. For Suddeth, another mission will bring more opportunity to do what he loves.



(Photo by Pfc. William Hatton 7th MPAD)

Sgt. Fred Suddeth an engineer with the 887th Engineer Support Company, 20th Engineer Battalion, 36th Engineer Brigade, operates a bulldozer as his unit sets up concrete barriers for Combat Outpost Thrasher. For Suddeth, a native of Eagle, Idaho, operating a bulldozer is more than just a regular job, it's an enjoyable job.